

Applic. No.: 09/658,712

Response Dated August 24, 2005

Reply to Office action of May 31, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 17-22 remain in the application.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 10 have been rejected as being anticipated by Bachmeir et al. (US 6,389,966 B2) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e); claims 17-22 have been rejected as being anticipated by Bachmeir et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 4-7 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 5-14 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Bachmeir et al. in view of Junghans (GB 2 206 311 A) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their previous form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

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Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a circumferential surface provided with a surface structure and formed of a nonmetallic material, said circumferential surface carrying a liquid and being a roller selected from the group of rollers consisting of a slip roller and a ductor roller, said surface structure being irregularly structured.

Claim 10 calls for, inter alia:

at least one roller with a circumferential surface provided with a surface structure and formed of a nonmetallic material, said circumferential surface carrying a liquid, and said roller being selected from the group of rollers consisting of a slip roller and a ductor roller, said surface structure being irregularly structured.

Claim 17 calls for, inter alia:

said circumferential surface carrying a liquid and being a roller selected from the group of rollers consisting of a slip roller and a ductor roller.

Claim 20 calls for, inter alia:

A printing machine comprising at least one roller with a circumferential surface provided with a surface structure and formed of a nonmetallic material, said circumferential surface carrying a liquid, said roller being selected from the group of rollers consisting of a slip roller and a ductor roller, and the surface structure being one of the group consisting of:

The Examiner has rejected all independent claims 1, 10, 17, 20 of the instant application as being anticipated by Bachmeir et al. However, the feature that the roller is a slip roller or a ductor roller, which is recited in all independent claims,

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is not disclosed by Bachmeir et al. The paragraph in column 1, lines 21-23 of Bachmeir et al., which is cited by the Examiner, only disclose a screen roller (see column 1, line 14) which is not a slip roller or a ductor roller.

Further, the screen of the screen roller as disclosed by Bachmeir et al. has a regular surface structure. This teaches a person skilled in that art away from the invention of the instant application as recited in claims 1 and 10, which has an irregular surface structure.

Junghans discloses a roller having a surface with a spiral configuration (see page 6, line 9), which can be understood as a helix structure (see Fig. 2). The spiral or helix structure is a regular structure, which is the opposite of the structure as recited in claims 1 and 10 of the instant application.

In summary, neither Bachmeir et al. nor Junghans disclose a slip roller or a ductor roller, or an irregular surface structure of the roller.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 10, 17, and 20. Claims 1, 10, 17, and 20 are, therefore, believed to be

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patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 10, 17, or 20, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-14, and 17-22 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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